

one of the largest and most famous in the world.

THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Crossing Westminster Bridge, the Houses of Parliament rise in imposing grandeur. Covering eight acres, the huge pile bespeaks majesty in every line of its noble Gothic style. Its river facade is 940 feet long, while its two famous towers, St. Stephen's and Victoria, are 316 and 420 feet in height respectively. "Big Ben," the huge clock so dear to Londoners, is in St. Stephen's Tower. Its four dials are 23 feet in diameter, and the minute hands are 16 feet long. Its huge bell, weighing 14 tons, is silent while the war lasts. The Houses of Parliament were completed in 1857, at a cost of \$15,000,000, in accordance with Sir Charles Barry's splendid design. While most of the building is comparatively new, a part, Westminster Hall, was built by King William Rufus in the eleventh century. The decayed oaken timbers in the great arched roof are only now being replaced.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Just across the open space from the Houses of Parliament, stands Westminster Abbey, one of the most ancient and most beautiful churches in Europe. The work not of one man, but of many centuries, it is universally regarded as a triumph of inspired art. More than that, no four walls in all the British Empire contain the remains and memorials of so many illustrious dead, dear to the heart of all who speak the English language. Magnificent tombs to the many English Kings here buried, do not command such reverent devotion from the tens of thousands who every year gather from the four quarters of the globe, as do those simpler memorials, only the name, perchance, engraven on a rude stone tablet, recalling the immortals of our literature from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Tennyson, Browning and Dickens.

LYOYD GEORGE'S RESIDENCE

Turning northward along the broad street known as Whitehall, we approach Trafalgar Square and the Strand. Whitehall is crowded with notable buildings. On our left are large palatial blocks of Government Offices, The Treasury, The Foreign Office, the Horse Guards' headquarters and the Admiralty Buildings. Downing Street runs off Whitehall, No. 10 being the Prime Minister's official residence. Here in the long ago have lived such giants as Pitt, Gladstone and Disraeli. But history may give a higher place to the present occupant, Lloyd George, than to any of his famous predecessors.

CHARLES I'S BANQUETING HALL

Across the street we notice a building now called the United Service Museum, where are

exhibited the best models extant of the battles of Waterloo and Trafalgar, besides a priceless array of souvenirs of Nelson, Wellington, Napoleon and other celebrities. This building used to be the Banqueting Hall of the old Whitehall Palace, and its magnificent ceiling is a masterpiece by Rubens. Through this hall Charles 1st passed to his execution.

CHANGING OF THE GUARDS

The new War Office is just beyond. Here Sir William Robertson, the Chief of Staff, and an army of assistants work day and night directing the colossal war undertaking assumed by Britain and her Colonies.

Our drive was timed to pass the Horse Guards just as the "Changing of the Guards" took place. The smartness of these Royal Regiments, and the snappy precision with which every movement of the ceremonial is carried out, make this scene one of the favorite sights for those visiting London.

THE HUB OF THE UNIVERSE

Trafalgar Square opens before us at the next corner. Being in the centre of London, this Square is not inappropriately termed "The Hub of the Universe." Nelson's Monument, rising to a height of 145 feet, occupies the most commanding site in London. At its base crouch four enormous lions sculptured by Sir Edwin Landseer, the most eminent painter of animals who ever lived. At its base, too, have gathered more political mass meetings than on any other spot in England.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Facing Trafalgar Square on the north side stands the National Gallery, a squat unpretentious building with a central dome. Within its walls are gathered, according to John Ruskin, "the finest collection of pictures for the art student to be found anywhere in the world."

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

A quick spin in our car through the new Admiralty Arch, and along that magnificently treed avenue, "The Mall," brings us through St. James' Park to Buckingham Palace, the town residence of the King and Queen. It was built by King George IV at a cost of over \$5,000,000, and restored a few years ago at a tremendous outlay. Nearby is the recently completed monument of Queen Victoria. The large gateways leading from the central court into the Mall, Birdcage Walk, and other avenues, were donated by the British Colonies as a memorial to Queen Victoria, and bear the names Canada, Australia, India and South Africa.

ON PICCADILLY

Turning along Pall Mall and St. James' Street, we are shown St. James' Palace, where the present King resided, when Duke of York